

we continue to find ourselves legislating by crisis.

Today, 65 percent of our Nation's roads are rated as less than good condition. Twenty-five percent are in poor condition. In Texas alone, we have over 300,000 miles of public roads, almost 10 percent of which are rated poorly.

I urge my colleagues to commit to a long-term plan that will provide certainty, increase transit revenues, and keep workers in our construction industries on the job, especially during this upcoming construction season.

As our roads erode and our transit system decays, it is imperative that we do our jobs and be responsible legislators. I urge my colleagues to enact a long-term bill as soon as possible.

WILLIAMS SYNDROME

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, Williams syndrome is a rare neurological disease. May is Williams Syndrome Awareness Month.

According to the Williams Syndrome Association, there are between 25,000 and 30,000 individuals living with this rare disease, at least one of whom is a constituent of mine. His name is Brian Weaver. I had the pleasure of meeting him.

My bill, the OPEN Act, would provide an incentive for companies to test their drugs on a rare disease population. Over 150 rare diseases organizations wrote to us saying the OPEN Act "promises to improve the quality of life for the nearly 30 million Americans suffering from rare diseases."

Research into Williams syndrome could lead to advances in treating Americans with high blood pressure, diabetes, autism, and anxiety disorders. We must continue to fight for millions of Americans who suffer from rare diseases like Williams syndrome.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I appear here today filled with a sense of great pride but also deeply troubled.

I am proud of the work done by women every day in America, women like my grandmother, who raised family, put food on the table, and ensured that their children received the education and care that they deserved.

I am offended that, as I stand here today, more than 50 years after President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law, as a country, we are still, as women, seeking pay equality. Women are only earning 78 cents to every dollar earned by a man. For women of color, that gap is even greater.

I am deeply troubled by the lack of retirement security for women, American women, and all older Americans.

Today, I am alarmed at our failure to provide women who work hard with basic benefits like paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave.

I am not intimidated, as a Member of Congress, by these problems. I and my Democratic colleagues are energized and united to correct this page in American history because we know, when women succeed, America succeeds.

SUPPORTING THE PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the passage of H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This legislation, which I cosponsored and voted for yesterday, will help protect unborn children by limiting abortion after 5 months, the point at which they can experience pain.

This is not a divisive concept. In fact, the majority of Americans support limiting abortion after 5 months. It is a fundamental issue of human rights and dignity.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass the House Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and join us in protecting the right of life, without which all other rights are impossible.

□ 1215

FY 2016 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important hard work of Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH of Washington and all of the members of the Armed Services Committee, as well as the committee staff, on the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. I am particularly proud of the work of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee, and I am particularly proud of working with Chairman JOE WILSON of South Carolina on critical national security priorities such as things like cybersecurity, one of the chief threats facing our Nation today, and also the work we have done on R&D, special operations, and counterterrorism. I also applaud the bill's investment in important undersea capabilities, such as the Virginia class submarines, the Virginia Payload Module, as well as the Ohio replacement program.

However, I am deeply concerned that the NDAA reflects a budget approach that locks in sequestration and severs that critical link between our national security and our economic security. It is unfortunate that a measure that has historically represented such strong bipartisanship and regular order has been

taken hostage by a refusal to address the Budget Control Act.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better. We need to avoid sequestration, properly fund our national defense, and I hope that these concerns will be addressed as we continue working to support the brave men and women who defend this great Nation every day.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEVADA APPEAL

(Mr. AMODEI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, New York Times, get out of the way. Chicago Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, not good enough; keep trying harder.

May 16 marks the 150th anniversary of the publishing of Nevada's oldest daily newspaper, the Nevada Appeal, published in its capital city, Carson City.

I am here to say happy sesquicentennial birthday to the Nevada Appeal, which, by the way, was one of the first newspapers in the land that was owned by a woman, from 1878 to 1880.

The paper has been a mainstay of Nevada journalistic enterprise. Forget it, Las Vegas Review-Journal, Las Vegas Sun, Reno Evening Gazette. These are the folks that have been there for 150 years.

I couldn't be prouder because, as a matter of fact, in my more productive years, at the age of about 9 and 10, I was a paperboy for the Nevada Appeal and have a picture to prove it, with the paper bag with "Nevada Appeal" blazoned across it on the front of my Columbia Stingray bicycle that I delivered the papers on.

Go, Nevada Appeal. Happy birthday to the publisher, Mark Raymond, and the editor, Adam Trumble. Way to go.

IN MEMORY OF ED LYNCH

(Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable philanthropist, family man, businessman, and friend from southwest Washington who has made a lasting impact on our region. He passed away this week at the age of 94.

Ed Lynch was a cornerstone of our community. Known by all as caring and humble, Mr. LYNCH was truly a representation of a servant leader. He was a neighbor and a friend.

In 1957, Ed and his wife, Dollie, moved to Washington State to make Vancouver their home. After serving as president of Kiewit Pacific, Ed dedicated the remaining years of his life to making our region, the region that he loved, a better place.

During his retirement, Ed poured his heart and soul into southwest Washington and taught us all that transforming one's community starts with a

servant's heart. Ed remained active and provided unmatched support for businesses, historic societies, civics projects, the Columbia Springs Foundation, the Fort Vancouver National Trust, and the PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center up until his last days.

Ed's vibrant personality made him one of the most beloved individuals of our entire region. Whether it was something as simple as remembering your name or giving you a book from his collection, he did more for our community than almost anyone, yet he was never more than just "one of us." I honor his memory today.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the highway trust fund, this Congress has kicked the can down the road so many times that pretty soon we will not even have a road.

In just 5 legislative days—in 5 legislative days—the fund will expire, and with it, 660,000 good-paying jobs will be on the chopping block.

America cannot lead the next century with broken roads and bridges collapsing. We are spending barely enough to repair the infrastructure of yesterday, as China and Europe build a transit system worthy of the 21st century.

In my district alone, we have two large infrastructure projects—the Second Avenue Subway and the East Side Access—and both of them depend, as do large infrastructure projects, on Federal funding. They create thousands of jobs, and they will cut commute times. They are investments in productivity and economic growth for our country.

After a dozen short-term extensions, it is time for a long-term highway bill. Our future depends on it. Our economic growth depends on it.

KEEP THE PROMISE ACT

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the serious issue facing my home State of Arizona.

For several years, I have been actively involved in a troubling off-reservation gaming issue in my home State of Arizona involving the Tohono O'odham Nation. The tribe has been attempting to move from their ancestral lands in Tucson into another tribe's former reservation in the Phoenix metropolitan area for the sole purpose of building a Las Vegas-style casino.

Tohono's dismissal of their promise of a voter-approved compact and their dismissal of a promise to build no additional casinos in Phoenix is not something that Congress can ignore when the result will be so harmful to what has been a national model.

Furthermore, Tohono has falsely been claiming a victory in court. This sentiment is factually wrong. The Tohono won nothing based on the merits. Rather, the case was dismissed on the draconian doctrine of sovereign immunity, which we, Congress, have jurisdiction and oversight of, rather than the courts.

I urge immediate adoption of this commonsense legislation that has passed this same body last Congress and has already passed committee by unanimous consent.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, once again, we are seeing a dose of demagoguery from the Republican leadership, who continue to threaten the elimination of the Export-Import Bank.

The Ex-Im Bank ensures that American companies of all sizes have access to financing for the export of American goods, from electronics, to medical equipment, to smartphones and cases of soap. These exports contribute to the strength of the economy and support millions of American jobs. In fact, since 2009, the bank has supported 1.3 million private sector jobs.

Republican threats to eliminate the bank are threats to American workers, manufacturers, and our economy. Last year, New Jersey exported \$36.8 billion in merchandise. Failure to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank would put billions of dollars in New Jersey exports at risk.

I urge my colleagues to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, there are only 5 legislative days until the highway trust fund expires. Once again, this House is governing by crisis and needlessly endangering 660,000 good-paying jobs. This needs to stop.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gives America's infrastructure an overall grade of D-minus. Mr. Speaker, 35 percent of my State of Connecticut's bridges are structurally deficient, functionally obsolete, or both.

We shouldn't wait until the trains derail, the bridges collapse, or projects shut down before we fund our infrastructure in this Nation. A great nation does not respond to crisis with duct tape. A great nation leads by bold action.

I join Democrats and Republicans who are ready to work together to pass a long-term, sustainable, robust highway and infrastructure bill. The time is act is now.

POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, Americans are still shaken by this week's Amtrak derailment that took the lives of seven people and left more than 200 injured. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have suffered a loss.

The NTSB said that this tragedy could have been prevented if the corridor had been outfitted with positive train control technology, PTC. All of us in southern California have known the importance of PTC since the horrible train accident in Chatsworth in 2008 that killed 25 people. Congress mandated that year that PTC be installed on all our Nation's rail lines.

Across the country, rail lines are in the process of installing this lifesaving technology, but many are behind schedule. There was no PTC in place where this recent crash occurred.

Yesterday, former Republican Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said, "The idea that Amtrak doesn't need more money to implement positive train control . . . is nonsense." And yet yesterday, Republicans in the House Appropriations Committee voted to cut the Amtrak budget by \$252 million.

This Congress' policy of starving our infrastructure system is endangering Americans. Enough is enough.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Mr. NORCROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk with my colleagues about passing a long-term reauthorization of the highway trust fund. If we don't do it now, it is about kicking the can down the road once again.

It is because of this dysfunction that we have here in Congress that we can't get something done. People talk to us day in and day out about how disgusted they are. We can't do things. They are crying out for predictability.

If you were only going to get two paychecks, would you be thinking about buying a house? Of course not. Industries that rely on our roads and bridges to move goods and services need that predictability, that funding, to make good business decisions. Otherwise, it would be foolish for them to do that.

We all say we want to help our economy grow, and certainly I do. Let's give the job creators a reason to create jobs. Let's reauthorize the highway trust fund for the long term.

□ 1230

WHEN WOMEN SUCCEED, AMERICA SUCCEEDS: AN ECONOMIC AGENDA FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)